



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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## India

### FAIRS Product Specific

## GOI Amends PFA Rules Relating to Wax Coating of Fresh Fruits

**2008**

**Approved by:**

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**Report Highlights:**

On February 28, 2008, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued the final notification of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Rules of 2008, pertaining to wax coating of fruits. On December 5, 2007, the Ministry had issued a draft Gazette notification and sought comments to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules of 1955, pertaining to wax coating of fresh fruits (Gain Report IN7116). These notifications have not been notified to the WTO.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
New Delhi [IN1]  
[IN]

**Introduction:** This report provides a brief overview of the final Gazette of India notification (G.S.R. 114 (E) issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Rules of 2008, pertaining to the application of waxes on fresh fruits.

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on an initial review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural exports to India.

**Type of Regulation:** Final

**Important Dates:**

- **Publication Date:** February 28, 2008
- **Notification to the WTO:** Not notified to date.
- **Effective Date:** February 28, 2008.

**Products Affected:** Fresh Fruits

**Agency in Charge:** Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI.

**Major Changes:**

The notification specifies that fresh fruits may be coated with bees wax, carnauba wax or shellac wax, and the name of the wax must be labeled on the package.

Find below the extracted portion of the notification pertaining to waxing of fresh fruits -

**Begin Quote**

....

2. In the prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, (hereinafter referred to as said rules), in rule 42, after sub-rule (ZZZ) (25), the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely: -

“(ZZZ) (25) Every package of fresh fruit **if coated with wax** shall carry the following label, namely, -

“Coated with wax ( <u>give item of wax</u> )”
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.....

4. In rule 48-E of the said rules, for the proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely: -

“Provided that fresh fruits may be coated with bees wax (white and yellow) or carnauba wax or shellac wax at level not exceeding Good Manufacturing Practices under proper label declaration as provided in sub-rule (ZZZ)(25) of rule 42.”

....

**End Quote**

**Post Comments:**

The final notification addresses U.S. concerns regarding India's earlier notification on the PFA Rules on waxing of fresh fruits (IN7004) as it (i) removes the requirement of the "Best Before Date" on the label, and (ii) includes shellac wax as an approved wax for surface coating of fresh fruits.

Earlier on December 29, 2006, the Ministry had issued a final notification to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules on waxing of fruits (IN7004), which had been deferred for implementation to January 1, 2008 (IN7029) and further to March 1, 2008 (IN8007). The United States Government (USG) commented on the proposed regulation expressing concerns regarding the proposed labeling requirement of the best before date and requested the removal of this requirement. The USG also requested India to approve the use of shellac food grade wax as a surface coating for fresh fruits as it is considered safe by CODEX and the FDA.

**For More Information:** Contact the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration website: <http://mohfw.nic.in/pfa.htm>

This website is mentioned for readers' convenience; USDA does **NOT** in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained in the above website.